

REMARKS

I. Status

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification at, for example, pages 13 (line 2), 19 (lines 4-20), and 25 (lines 21-28). Claims 2, 9-11, and 17-33 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 34 and 35 have been added. Claims 1, 3-8, 12-16, and 34-35 will be pending upon entry of this paper. No new matter has been added.

II. Response to Rejections

A. Anticipation Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 16 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Calvin in light of Torr. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to even further clarify their subject matter.

Amended claims 1 and 7 recite that a polarity of the electric field is periodically reversed. In one specific embodiment of this technique, the electric field can be established by electrodes coupled to an AC source. *See* claims 3, 12, and 13 and specification at pages 13, 19, and 25.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 12, and 13—each involving an AC source—contained allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action at page 5. Applicant respectfully submits that, accordingly, amended claims 1 and 7 are now allowable too. Specifically, since amended claims 1 and 7 now involve a periodic reversal of polarity, those claims are allowable for at least the reasons claims 3, 12, and 13 were cited as being allowable. More specifically, neither Calvin nor Torr disclose the methods of amended claims 1 and 7, and particularly the combination of recited steps including the periodic reversal of polarity.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present anticipation rejections be withdrawn.

B. Obviousness Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, and 14-16 stand rejected as being allegedly obvious in view of Calvin and Torr. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that Calvin and Torr, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claims 1 and 7 and particularly the combination of recited steps including the periodic reversal of polarity. Further, as explained above, the Examiner has already indicated that claims 3, 12, and 13 were allowable, and those claims involved the concept of an AC source. For at least the same reasons, amended claims 1 and 7 are now allowable. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the present obviousness rejection.

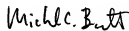
C. New Claims 34 and 35

Claims 9 and 10 were objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Newly added claim 34 recites features originally present in allowable claim 9. Newly added claim 35 recites features originally present in allowable claim 10. Therefore, Applicant believes that the new claims are in condition for allowance.

D. Conclusion

Applicant believes this response addresses each rejection and requests favorable reconsideration. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by phone at 512-536-3018 or by e-mail at mbarrett@fulbright.com with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Barrett
Reg. No. 44,523
Attorney for Applicant

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: 512-536-3018
Facsimile: 512-536-4598

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